

## Message Text

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43/15  
ACTION SS-30

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S E C R E T JERUSALEM 201

EXDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (TEXT: PARA 3.)

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: MARR, EG, IS, UN  
SUBJECT: ARRANGEMENTS FOR UN INSPECTION OF SINAI DISENGAGEMENT  
ZONES

1. UNEF COMMANDER SIILASVOU, IN JERUSALEM TO MEET WITH ISRAELI  
AUTHORITIES ON INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS, MET WITH DUTCH, FRENCH,  
AND US CONSULS GENERAL MORNING OF FEBRUARY 1. HE GAVE FOLLOWING  
ACCOUNT OF INSPECTION ARRANGEMENTS:

(A) AGREEMENT WORKED OUT BETWEEN ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN  
MILITARY OFFICERS AT KILOMETER 101 SUBSEQUENT TO DISENGAGEMENT  
AGREEMENT PROVIDED FOR UNEF INSPECTION OF LIGHT ZONES AND OF  
ZONES EXTENDING 30 KM BACK FROM EACH LIGHT ZONE. ON EGYPTIAN  
SIDE, THIS INVOLVED AREA 30 KMS DEEP ALONG WEST BANK OF CANAL  
AND ON ISRAELI SIDE A ZONE EXTENDING 30 KMS EAST OF ISRAELI  
LIGHT ZONE.

(B) SIILASVOU INTENDS TO USE UNTSO PATROLS TO INSPECT BOTH  
THE LIGHT ZONES AND THE 30-KM ZONES. HE HAS AGREEMENT FROM BOTH  
PARTIES FOR THIS, THOUGH HE HAS YET TO WORK OUT DETAILS WITH  
ISRAELIS ( HE EXPECTS TO DO SO AFTERNOON OF FEB 1.)

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(C) GROUND INSPECTION OF 30-KM ZONES WOULD BE DIFFICULT  
BECAUSE OF SIZE OF ZONES, IN SOME CASES TERRAIN, AND NATURE OF  
INSPECTION ITSELF. HE BELIEVED ONLY PRACTICABLE WAY WAS TO HAVE  
MAPS PROVIDED BY EACH SIDE INDICATING ALL POINTS OF MILITARY

INTEREST, WHICH COULD THEN BE BASIS FOR INSPECTION AND VERIFICATION BY UNTSO PATROLS. HE SEEMED TO ANTICIPATE NO PROBLEM IN SECURING SUCH MAPS.

2. SIILASVOU NOTED THAT TERRAIN WAS SUCH THAT VIRTUAL ENTIRETY OF EGYPTIAN LIGHT ZONE COULD BE OBSERVED FROM UNEF BUFFER ZONE. SAME WAS NOT TRUE OF ISRAELI LIGHT ZONE, BUT SIILASVOU BELIEVED ISRAELIS WERE HIGHLY UNLIKELY TO MAINTAIN EVEN AS MANY MEN IN ZONE AS THEY ARE PERMITTED BY AGREEMENT. SIILASVOU COMMENTED HE STILL HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN INFORMATION ABOUT LIMITATIONS HE WAS TO ENFORCE IN LIGHT ZONES.

3. CHOICE OF UNTSO PATROLS INSTEAD OF UNEF ITSELF FOR INSPECTION TASKS, SIILASVOU SAID, WAS SUGGESTED BY NUMBER OF FACTORS. UNTSO OFFICERS HAVE RELEVANT EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING. UNEF OFFICERS MUST FOR MOST PART REMAIN WITH THEIR UNITS. UNTSO OFFICERS HAVE USEFUL LANGUAGE CAPABILITY. ALL UN CONTRIBUTING COUNTRIES EXCEPT USSR ARE ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES. HE SAID UNTSO PATROLS WOULD OPERATE UNDER HIS COMMAND, SINCE UNEF WAS GIVEN RESPONSIBILITY FOR SURVEILLANCE FUNCTION.

4. AS FOR UNEF ITSELF, HE SAID HE HAD SUFFICIENT MEN TO PERFORM BUFFER ZONE OPERATION AND WOULD NOT NEED ANY AUGMENTATION.

5. MANNING OF UNTSO PATROLS WOULD BE MANAGED AS AT PRESENT, SO AS TO AVOID PUTTING SOVIET PERSONNEL INTO ISRAELI AREAS. US PERSONNEL WOULD BE USED ON BOTH EGYPTIAN AND ISRAELI SIDES. SIILASVOU COMMENTED THAT ISRAELIS HAD WONDERED IF HE COULD NOT DISPOSE UNEF UNITS WITHIN BUFFER ZONE SO THAT THOSE NOT ACCEPTABLE TO ISRAEL WOULD BE ON WEST SIDE OF LINE RUNNING DOWN MIDDLE OF ZONE. HE REFUSED, SAYING THAT UNEF WAS AN INTEGRAL FORCE.

6. COMMENT: IT HAS BEEN OF SOME CONCERN AT UNTSO HEADQUARTERS HERE THAT UNTSO ROLE MIGHT BE ELIMINATED IN DISENGAGEMENT PROCESS, PARTICULARLY SINCE SIILASVOU HAD ORDERED WITHDRAWAL OF ALL BUT THREE UNTSO PATROLS DURING PERIOD OF TROOP

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READJUSTMENTS. SIILASVOU'S CHOICE OF UNTSO TO PERFORM INSPECTION TASKS SEEMS TO US TO MAKE GOOD SENSE, SINCE OBSERVERS ARE GENERALLY WELL SELECTED AND TRAINED FOR JUST THIS KIND OF WORK. THEY ALL SPEAK ENGLISH, WHICH ENABLES THEM TO COMMUNICATE WITH EACH OTHER AND WITH CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF ISRAELIS AND EGYPTIANS. UNTSO HEADQUARTERS HAS GAINED IMPRESSION FROM ISRAELIS THAT LATTER WANT UNTSO TO HAVE THIS ROLE, AND THIS UNACCUSTOMED RECEPTIVITY ON ISRAELI PART TENDS TO ELIMINATE ONE OF HANDICAPS UNDER WHICH UNTSO HAS SOMETIMES OPERATED. DAY

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